

Francis R. Ely House
242 West Lafayette Street
Marianna
Jackson County
Florida

HABS No. FLA-154

HABS
FLA.

32-MARI,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. FLA-154

FRANCIS R. ELY HOUSE

Location: Florida, Jackson County, Marianna, 242 West Lafayette Street

Present Owner: Mrs. Joseph M. Criglar

Present Occupant: Mrs. Joseph M. Criglar

Present Use: Private Dwelling

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a fine Greek Revival house, built for an important merchant and owner of a large plantation.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built for Francis R. Ely, c. 1840. In 1888 the house and property went from Charles Ely, son of Francis Ely, to William J. Daniel, local banker. In May, 1889, Daniel sold the property to Francis B. Carter of Marianna who was a member of the Supreme Court of Florida Deed recorded in Book P, page 316, Office of the Clerk, Circuit Court, Jackson County. In 1900 Judge Carter sold the house and seven acres to Mary Nella Criglar (Mrs. Joseph M.), the present owner Deed recorded June 6, 1901, in Book LL, page 708, Office of the Clerk, Circuit Court, Jackson County.
2. Date of erection: c. 1840. Francis R. Ely for whom the house was built was born in Plymouth, North Carolina. He apparently moved to Marianna between 1838, when a child of his was born in North Carolina, and 1840, when another child was born in Marianna Roulhac Genealogy (1895) by Prescott. This house was presumably built for him soon after his arrival in Marianna.
3. Builder, suppliers, etc.: It was recently discovered that the fancy wood trim used on the two wings was made and shipped from "New York to Marianna, Florida via Apalachicola, Florida." The phrase in quotations was found printed on the underside of some trim that was being repaired.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: The original house consisted of the main two-story section of brick, with wings on either side of wood.

FRANCIS R. ELY HOUSE
HABS No. FLA-154 (Page 2)

5. Notes on alterations and additions: The wings, which may have been later than the main house, have been moved, and the larger of the two (west wing moved in 1925 by present owner) stands on an adjoining piece of property on Russ Street, with very little physical change from its original state. The two large back porches that ran the full width of the house have been enclosed and made into additional rooms. The house was first painted white by the present owner in 1933. Prior to that time it had been painted a light tan, and trimmed in a spanish brown. In 1961, the present owner had paint scraped to the original brick, and all wood trim painted white. After thorough examination it was determined the house had never been painted white until 1933. The two wings opened onto back gallery, and not into main section of house.
 6. Important old views: Postcard pictures, 1900-1914, front views, in possession of present owner. Large picture, made around 1920, in possession of present owner.
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Site of the beginning of The Battle of Marianna. A barricade was erected by the old men and boys who defended Marianna against Union troops on September 27, 1864, at Ely's Corner, the junction of the Campbellton and St. Andrews Bay Roads, at the S. W. corner of the property. History of the "Battle of Marianna" by Mark Boyd, and History of Jackson County by Stanley/.

Prepared by Floie Criglar Packard
(Mrs. John C.)
242 West Lafayette Street
Marianna
Jackson County
Florida
February 1962

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Exceptionally fine, two-story, brick bearing wall structure of Greek Revival style, four square columned porch with elaborate cornice details.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent, only slightly modified from original.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 48' (front, south elevation) x 50' (not including modern rear additions). 2 stories high.
2. Foundations: Brick bearing wall
3. Wall construction: Exterior walls of main block of hand-made brick. Original back porch now enclosed with clapboards. Original porch columns remain exposed and in walls.
4. Porches, balcony: Four-columned portico across entire south front. Two-story high columns, square, tapered, paneled. Full Doric entablature with mutules, gattae, triglyphs, etc. Concrete steps.

Balcony within portico at second floor level has wood railing, balustrade in vertical diamond pattern. (Balcony portion of porch which originally extended across full south elevation).

5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys in end walls with two flues each, and modern brick chimney for heater.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Front (south) doorway has top light divided into three sections, 1 over door and over each of the side lights. Light over the door has two large lights and twelve small lights; five lights in each side light; paneled door. Trim has heavy wood cornice, entablature, and fluted pilasters. Doorway on balcony similar.
- b. Windows and shutters: Double hung, 12 over 9 light sash on the first floor, 9 over 9 light on the second floor, original glass, thin muntins, mortise and tenon sash. Heavy wood frame. One, wood louvered shutter remains.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Low-pitched gable parallel to south elevation, nearly flat roof over porch with slight slope toward house, parapet at front wall. Sheet metal covering.

- b. Cornice and eaves: Small molded wood cornice at eave of gable roof.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. First floor: Central stair hall flanked by one room on each side in the front brick section of the house. The original porch extends at both floors across the north side of the house. The left front room leads to a room in a portion of the enclosed porch. Right front room leads to a dressing room and bath (enclosed porch) through original doorway to porch.
- b. Second floor: Access limited to stair hall and front room left. Stair hall flanked by two rooms. Left room leads to sleeping porch and storeroom.

2. Stairway: Steep, L-shaped, wood stair with winders, $7\frac{1}{2}$ " risers, 10" treads, two round balusters per tread, volute newel.
3. Flooring: Pine, 2" x 6" boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster on interior brick partitions from first floor to attic, or plaster on wood lath, medallion decoration in hall where lamp hangs.
5. Interior doorways and doors: One and two paneled doors (appear to be original), mortise and tenon joints with peg fasteners.
6. Trim: Exceptionally good Greek Revival trim, patterned corner blocks on window and door surrounds, panels under windows. Wood valances over windows (original).
7. Hardware: Original brass knocker on front door. Carpenter Company box lock; Stanley Company hardware (appears original) on interior doors; old window catches, shutter hardware.
8. Lighting: Modern electric. Original oil lamp hangs in stair hall.
9. Heating: Fireplaces in each room; only one open in left front room with coal grate; space heaters throughout.

FRANCIS R. ELY HOUSE
HABS No. FLA-154 (Page 5)

- D. Site: Faces south on U. S. Highway 90, in grove of trees, drive to right front of house, informal landscape, no out-buildings. Original brick walls removed or covered. Original landscaping with planting mounds, sculpture, etc.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves
College of Architecture and Fine Arts
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida
February 1962